

## Alternate Assessment Decision-Making Process: Matching Students to Assessment Options

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** (at time of planning meeting): \_\_\_\_\_  
**School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Meeting Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Use the sequence of questions below to (a) document that required eligibility procedures have been followed, (b) certify that the student is eligible for an alternate assessment, and (c) determine which of three alternate assessment options is most appropriate. Begin with the questions in Section 1 and continue through the question sequence until the directions at a particular "decision point" indicate that the correct option has been determined. Indicate, below, which statewide assessment(s) are being considered:

- ☐ **Vermont - Developmental Reading Assessment** (grade 2)  
☐ **NECAP English/Language Arts** (grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 11)  
☐ **NECAP Math** (grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 11)  
☐ **NECAP Writing** (grades 5, 8 & 11)

### Section 1 – General Questions

This section documents that the required process and procedural guidelines have been followed. Process and procedural guidelines include provisions for a team process, parent participation, and analysis of information relevant to the student's potential for participation in the general statewide assessment.

1. Was the decision to use an alternate assessment made by the student's planning team?

**One of the following plans, which includes current levels of performance, must be attached to this form in order for approval to be considered!**

IEP ☐ 504 ☐ EST ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Was parent involvement provided through one of the following? (Please indicate):

☐ Parents participated in the decision-making process by attending a meeting or by providing input before a final decision was made.

-Or-

☐ If parents were unable to participate, they were informed of the team's decision and reasons.

3. Were at least two of the following methods used to evaluate the student's potential to participate in the general statewide assessment? (Check all that apply):

- ① Completion of the Alternate Assessment Decision-Making Process form
- ② Discussion concerning the student's prior experiences with similar tests
- ③ Comparison of student achievement levels to Grade Level Expectations (GLEs)
- ④ Results of practice tests
- ⑤ Results of released tasks or items
- ⑥ Comparison of student achievement levels to Alternate Grade Expectations (AGEs)
- ⑦ Student previously participated in the Lifeskills Portfolio Assessment
- ⑧ Consultation with district Alternate Assessment Mentor and/or VT Dept. of Ed.
- ⑨ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

#### DECISION POINT #1

**If the answer to ANY Section 1 question is NO, then STOP!**

**Process & procedures are INSUFFICIENT to determine eligibility.**

**If the answers to ALL Section 1 questions are YES, then proceed to SECTION 2.**

1. Is the student working toward the same standards and grade level expectations as grade level classmates?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Is the student working at the same performance levels as grade level classmates?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Is the student unable to participate in the general assessment for any of the following reasons? (Please indicate):

☐ Yes ☐ No

- ☐ In general, the student needs a specific accommodation which the allowable accommodation tables indicate is not appropriate for the assessment because the accommodations would change the nature or difficulty of assessment items or tasks; or

- ☐ The student's participation in the general assessment would cause significant psychological or emotional trauma.

4. Were at least two of the following methods used to determine that no specified standard accommodations are available that would permit the student to participate in the general statewide assessment? (Check all that apply):

☐ Yes ☐ No

- ① Completion of the Alternate Assessment Decision-Making Process form
- ② Discussion concerning the student's prior experiences with similar tests
- ③ Comparison of student achievement levels to Grade Level Expectations (GLEs)
- ④ Results of practice tests
- ⑤ Results of released tasks or items
- ⑥ Comparison of student achievement levels to Alternate Grade Expectations (AGES)
- ⑦ Student previously participated in the Lifeskills Portfolio Assessment
- ⑧ Consultation with district Alternate Assessment Mentor and/or VT Dept. of Ed.
- ⑨ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**If the answer to ANY Section 2 question is NO, then proceed to SECTION 3.**

### Section 3 – Lifeskills Assessment

Lifeskills assessments are appropriate for students working toward alternate achievement standards, at individually determined performance or difficulty levels. Students who are eligible for the Lifeskills assessment represent less than 1% of all students. These students will typically have IEPs that focus on functional lifeskills goals and content which are not measured by the general assessment.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Does the student have an educational plan that focuses on life skills such as basic access, communication, personal management, social skills, home/school/community, recreation, and vocational skills? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Are the student's priority goals represented in the alternate grade expectations (AGEs) and not measured by the general assessment?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Does the student's level of cognitive ability and adaptive skills prevent achievement of the standards designated for classmates who do not have disabilities?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

#### **DECISION POINT #3**

**If the answers to ALL Section 3 questions are YES, then STOP!**

**The student is ELIGIBLE for a LIFESKILLS ASSESSMENT.**

**If the answer to ANY Section 3 question is NO, then GO BACK!**

**As a team, reconsider accommodations, modifications, or adaptations.**

#### **NEXT STEP:**

After determining the most appropriate assessment for the student, please complete the Documentation of Eligibility for Alternate Assessment form and submit it with an IEP or student plan, listing current levels of performance to:

Rachel Corey  
Vermont Dept of Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

**For additional information and assistance, please call:**

- |   |                                  |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Assessment Team                          | Cindy Moran<br>Greg Wylde        | (802) 828-0646<br>(802) 828-1338 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Statewide Assessment Team                          | Mary Ann Minardo<br>Michael Hock | (802) 828-5410<br>(802) 828-3115 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Center for Disabilities and<br>Community Inclusion | Receptionist<br>Susan Edelman    | (802) 656-4031<br>(802) 656-8554 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Assessment Network<br>Leader              | Rose Wheeler                     | (802) 828-3114                   |